

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A circuit comprising:
 - a first capacitor formed with a dielectric including the dielectric encasing elements of the circuit;
 - a detector to detect changes in the capacitance of the capacitor;
 - approximately parallel conductors located proximate to circuit elements to protect from tampering; and
 - a comparator to compare a reference voltage with a voltage at a node of the first capacitor, wherein the reference voltage is a voltage at a node of a second capacitor.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Original) The circuit of claim 1 in which the detector further comprises:
 - a disable output terminal to provide a signal to disable an operation of the circuit.
5. (Currently Amended) A circuit comprising:
 - a detector comprising a first capacitor formed from conductive elements arranged such that removal of dielectric material from the vicinity of the conductive elements results in assertion of a signal disabling one or more operations of the circuit, the conductive elements arranged approximately parallel and proximate to elements of the circuit to protect from tampering; and
 - a comparator to compare a reference voltage with a voltage at a node of the first capacitor, wherein the reference voltage is a voltage at a node of a second capacitor.

6. (Currently Amended) The circuit of claim 5, the detector adapted to assert the signal as a result of a change in a capacitance of the first capacitor.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
 - disabling one or more operations of a circuit upon detecting a change in a capacitance resulting from removal of dielectric material from the vicinity of conductive elements of the circuit, the change in capacitance resulting from removal of dielectric material from the vicinity of approximately parallel conductors located proximate to circuit elements to protect from tampering;
 - forming a first capacitor using approximately parallel conductors located proximate to circuit elements to protect from tampering; and
 - comparing a reference voltage with a voltage at a node of the first capacitor, wherein the reference voltage is a voltage at a node of a second capacitor.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:
 - a processor coupled to a memory by way of a bus;
 - the processor comprising a detector, the detector comprising a first capacitor formed from conductive elements arranged such that removal of dielectric material from the vicinity of the conductive elements results in assertion of a signal disabling one or more operations of the circuit, the conductive elements arranged approximately parallel and proximate to elements of the processor to protect from tampering; and a comparator

to compare a reference voltage with a voltage at a node of the capacitor wherein the reference voltage is a voltage at a node of a second capacitor.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, the detector adapted to assert the signal as a result of a change in a capacitance of the first capacitor.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)